

## A Commitment to LGBT Health

Whereas all people, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people, deserve to enjoy healthy lives and to have access to health care that effectively addresses all aspects of their needs, including prevention, treatment, and wellness services;

Whereas LGBT people come from a wide variety of backgrounds and are part of every racial, ethnic, religious, and socioeconomic group;

Whereas LGBT people, including many same-sex couples, live in almost every county across the United States and are part of the fabric of American society;

Whereas more than one million same-sex couples are raising children;

Whereas LGBT people and their families are regularly discriminated against in employment and relationship recognition, resulting in significant disparities in insurance coverage and health status that are recognized by authorities such as *Healthy People*, the American Medical Association, and the Institute of Medicine;

Whereas these disparities are exacerbated by factors such as high rates of anti-LGBT violence; the stress of coping with anti-LGBT discrimination; and practices that limit or deny coverage to people with life-threatening conditions, including a cancer diagnosis, high blood pressure, diabetes, or HIV/AIDS;

Whereas LGBT people of color and others who live at the intersections of multiple disparity groups face entrenched racism, sexism, and other barriers that limit their access to health care and undermine their ability to keep themselves and their families healthy;

Whereas LGBT people and their families are routinely misunderstood, mistreated, or openly discriminated against by health care providers who are not familiar with or sympathetic to their needs;

Whereas America's health system can best serve LGBT youth, the children of LGBT parents, and older LGBT adults by better supporting alternative family structures and nontraditional caregivers;

Whereas the Affordable Care Act and programs such as the Community Health Center Program, the Title X Family Planning Program, and the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) are cornerstones of sound, coherent efforts to transform our health system, improve our nation's health, and eliminate LGBT health disparities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I \_\_\_\_\_ commit to

1. Show LGBT people that they count by supporting the inclusion of gender identity and sexual orientation measures on nationwide surveys such as the American Community Survey and the National Health Interview Survey; and
2. Protect the Affordable Care Act and vital programs that serve the LGBT community and other marginalized communities by opposing any effort to repeal, defund, or otherwise eliminate the Affordable Care Act or programs such as the Community Health Center Program, the Title X Family Planning Program, or ADAP.